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SECURITY INFORMATION

German Democratic Republic

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1950 and 1951 COAL OUTPUT IN THE GDR

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Comment: According to the GDR's Five-Year Plan, the crude brown coal production is scheduled to be increased from 130 million tons in 1949 to 205 million tons in 1955, and the brown-coal briquette production from 37 million tons in 1949 to 56 million tons in 1955. German enterprises produced 90 million tons of the total crude brown coal production in 1949, and 40 million tons were produced by SAG's. Of the total 1949 brown-coal briquette production, 21 million tons were produced by German enterprises and 16 million tons by SAG's. The production increase scheduled by the Five-Year Plan must be achieved by investments in German plants. New investments are not planned for the SAG's. The 1955 crude brown coal and brown-coal briquette production of the German enterprises will therefore be 165 million tons and 40 million tons respectively, while the ~~XXXXXX~~ 1955 production of the SAG's will be the same as in 1949. The scheduled new mine openings will require 1,200 kilometers of rails and five conveyor belts (Foerderbruecken), each having a daily capacity of 100,000 to 150,000 cubic meters

1) Brown coal. In 1950, 91,642,200 tons of crude brown coal and 22,525,000 tons of brown-coal briquettes were produced in the GDR. The 1951 production plan calls for an output of 99 million tons of crude brown coal and 23.5 million tons of brown-coal briquettes, excluding the production of the SAG's (Soviet Corporations). Efforts are being made to cover the requirements of the brown coal industry for operating and mining equipment in the GDR, in order to decrease dependence on imports. For example, the SAG Volbrath & Sohn, Blankenburg, is producing rubber conveyor belts up to 1,600 millimeters in width, and the VEB Ballenstedt Plant is scheduled to produce these belts up to 3,000 millimeters in width at the beginning of 1952. Excavator rails (Baggerschienen) constitute a serious bottleneck, and negotiations are underway to procure them from the West. Particular difficulties are not anticipated in fulfilling the 1951 production quota. Thus, the 1st quarter 1951 quota was 104.8 percent fulfilled for crude brown coal and 103.4 percent fulfilled for brown-coal briquettes.

2) Black coal. A table of the planned 1951 production (for each quarter) reveals that a total output of 3,380,000 tons of black coal is scheduled, whereas 2,804,500 tons were produced in 1950. Another table indicates that 772,220 tons of the scheduled 843,200 tons were produced in the 1st quarter of 1951. In May 1951, the mining quota was overfulfilled for the first time since 1949 (102 percent of the plan). Zwickau submitted new lists to the Ministry of Heavy Industry of the most urgently needed mining machinery and equipment to be imported in 1951. Since both legal and illegal West German imports have become extremely difficult to procure, negotiations were started to obtain this machinery from Poland and the CSR. The machine factories in these two countries manufacture all types of West German machinery without regard to West German patent rights. The Lauchhammer Conveyor Plant has been directed to manufacture West German-type presses and other machines and parts in mass production. An attempt is being made to eliminate the bottleneck in heavy hoisting cables by procuring them from the CSR.

During prospecting activities for new coal deposits in the so-called intermediate area of Zwickau and Oelsnitz, a vein about 3.3 meters thick was found at a depth of 922 meters in the Muehlengrund area. Identification of the vein is underway, and prospecting activities will be continued.

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